

The Examiner's restriction requirement is respectfully traversed. However, Group A, consisting of Figs. 14 a, 14b and 14c, is provisionally elected which independent claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 15 can be read on.

Claim 1, we believe, is generic to all figures of groups A-D. That applies to dependent claims 2-4 as well. Claims 5-7 apply to all groups except B (Figs. 15 and 15a).

Claims 8-11 are believed to be generic to all groups A and B of Figs. 14a-c and 15 and 15a.

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Claims 12-14 apply to Group A.

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Claims 15-17 apply to all groups except B (Figures 15 and 15a).

The reason for the distinctions is that Figs. 15 and 15a are for an end frame and there is only one leg instead of a pair of legs.

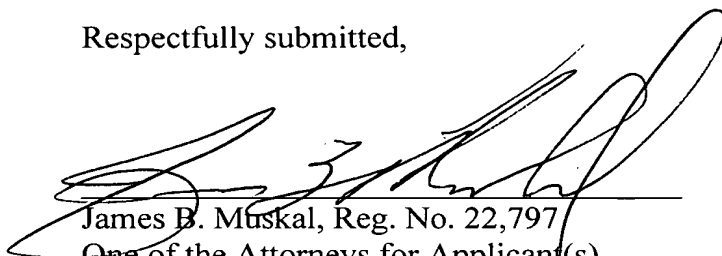
As to Figure Groups A, C and D, the differences deal with the extent of the bent over leg so Group A would include claims 1-4, 5-7, 8-11, 12-14 and 15-17. Accordingly, Applicant provisionally elects Group A.

It is respectfully contended that the restriction requirement is improper because the Examiner has not shown that a search and examination of the entire application would cause any serious burden, as required by Section 803 of the MPEP. In fact, a serious burden would arise only if the application were restricted to one of the identified inventions. Filing three additional applications to the non-elected inventions would necessarily burden the Patent and Trademark Office, since it must assume the additional and unnecessary labor involved in examining separate applications, (2) the public, since it will have to examine

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three applications to fully ascertain the claimed subject mater, and (3) Applicant, since he will have to bear the financial burden of multiple applications.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James B. Muskal', is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: April 3, 2001



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: April 3, 2001

Nancy J. Arnes

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